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**DRAFT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
THREE OAKS MINE**

**Lead Agency:** Department of the Army  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fort Worth District

**Project Location:** Lee and Bastrop Counties, Texas

**Comments on this EIS  
Should be Directed to:** Ms. Jennifer Walker, EIS Project Manager  
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**Date Draft EIS Filed with EPA:** August 23, 2002

**Date by Which Comments Must  
be Received by the USACE:** October 22, 2002

**ABSTRACT**

Alcoa Inc. proposes to construct and operate the Three Oaks Mine, a surface lignite mine that would be located east of Austin in Lee and Bastrop Counties, Texas. The proposed project requires a permit from the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) under Title 16, Part 1, Chapter 12 of the Texas Administrative Code. The RRC permit area for the proposed project consists of 16,062 acres; within the permit area, a total of 8,648 acres would be disturbed over the 25-year life of the mine for mining and ancillary facilities. An additional 6 acres would be disturbed for relocated roads outside of the permit area.

In addition to the mine pits, project facilities would include a central blending facility, a haul road and overland conveyor, surface water control features, power lines, a substation, road relocations, maintenance facilities, offices, and groundwater wells.

The proposed project requires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This permit decision is a major federal action with the potential to significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, the USACE has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is necessary. This Draft EIS describes the environmental impacts associated with the alternatives available to the USACE (issuance of a Section 404 permit, issuance of a permit with conditions, or denial of the permit application).

**Responsible Official for EIS:**

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Gordon M. Wells  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
Commanding

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